



Tax season is here again. To make sure that you are getting the most out of your tax return, TNR has researched important information about the 2007 tax season. Along with a change in the filing deadline, there are new tax credits available.

# Be sure not to miss out on any money that is owed to you!



The deadline for filing an annual tax return is April 17, 2007. It's normally April 15th of every year, but April 15th falls on a Sunday in 2007, and April 16th, 2007 is Emancipation Day; a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.



If you've been serving in a combat zone anytime after Jan. 1, 2006, you're entitled to a 180-day extension for filing from the day you left the combat zone, plus the amount of days up until April 15th you were in the zone. For detailed combat zone filing instructions, visit **www.irs.gov**.



Taxpayers who purchased or leased any of 44 different models of hybrid vehicles in 2006 may be entitled to a tax credit worth as much as \$3,150 for the most fuelefficient models.



Anyone who paid the federal excise tax on their long-distance or bundled service for landline, wireless, or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service between Feb. 28, 2003 and Aug. 1, 2006 is eligible to request the telephone tax refund.



The IRS continued its partnership with Free File Alliance, a private-sector consortium of tax software companies, to help taxpayers electronically prepare and file their federal tax returns for free. Taxpayers can access Free File at **www.irs.gov**.



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is available on most Navy installations world-wide. This program, in partnership with the Armed Forces Tax Council and the IRS, provides free tax preparation assistance at offices on-base. Along with filing assistance, VITA also provides tax advice. Both spouses must be present to sign if filing a married joint return.



#### NECC - One Year Anniversary, A Look Back and Forward!

The command set an ambitious pace in its first year of operation with 15 people and now compromises a staff of 146.

# Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Pin Eligibility for Reservists

Navy Reservists serving with certain NECC units have the opportunity to earn the Navy's newest warfare qualification pin.



# 8

#### NECC - Expeditionary Professionals

Integrated expeditionary force of nearly 40,000 Sailors, half is Reserve Component!

#### Rally Round The Clock To Get Troops Home For Christmas

Navy Customs Battalion Romeo inspects baggage, vehicles and any type of military equipment returning to the United States.





#### Seabees Maximize Resources

NMCB-25's overall Western Iraq mission provided construction, engineering and transportation assets support to the Ist Marine Expeditionary Force.

#### ECRC Provides IA Support

NECC creates Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center to support IAs in theater and to adapt Sailors' skills to non-traditional mission areas.



### April 07

navyreserve.navy.mil

THE NAVY RESERVIST

Vice Adm. John G. Cotton Chief, Navy Reserve

Rear Adm. Craig O. McDonald Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command

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Bryan W. Bordelon Creative Director / Graphic Designer The Navy Reservist is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense (DoD). Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, DoD or the U.S. Navy. This monthly magazine is prepared by the Public Affairs Office of Commander, Navy Reserve Forces, Command New Orleans. Contributors may send news and images by e-mail to navresfor\_tnr@navy.mil or by mail to: The Navy Reservist, CDMNAVRESFOR (NOOP), 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, La. 70146-5046. Telephone inquires should be made to (504) 678-1240 or DSN 678-1240.

The Navy Reservist is always looking for good action photos of Navy Reservists (minimum 300 dpi) that tell a story of Reserve training or support to the fleet. Please provide full identification of all individuals in the photograph, including their respective rating, rank and command. Photos should also include a visual information record identification number or VIRIN. Information about VIRINs is available online at www.mediacen.navy.mil/vivirin.htm. Submissions should be received eight weeks prior to publication month (i.e. October 1st for the December issue). Material will not be returned.

NEWS ONLINE ... The Navy Reservist current and past issues can be accessed online at http://navyreserve.navy.mil. Navy Reserve News Stand, a Web site featuring Navy Reserve news and photos, plus links to Navy fleet pages, can be viewed at www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ... Selected Reservists with address changes need to provide updates to the NSIPS (Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System) via their NOSC Personnel Office.

Also ...

Our Cover:

U.S. Navy photos by: MCC Dave Fliesen MCC Daniel Sanford

MC1 Jackey Bratt

MC2 Katrina Jones

MC2 Eric S. Powel MC2 Jennifer A. Villalovos

MC2 Andrew Mckaskle

MC3 Kenneth R. Hendrix

# 23 Challenging Opportunites in NECC

NECC develops new and important Reserve unit to integrate with and complement NECC's Active Component by providing direct support and assistance when and where needed to meet its mission and objectives.

# 29 Merchant Marine Conference

Provided an open forum for drilling mariners to stay current on Navy topics, regulations and events.

# Departments

02...Admiral's View

03...Sailors Matter

04...Spiritual Navigation

05...Career Counselor Corner

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10...Crossword Conundrum

I I ... Apply

I 2...Policy Board

16...Back To Basics

32...RC Phone Directory

# Admiral's View

elevance — Not an Option! Military history is an account of relevance. Those who are relevant, remain in the battle. All others fall by the way. That is a fact that has not changed in thousands of years; however, what has changed is the type of war being fought.

Today's forces fight a continual war that can erupt at any time and in any setting worldwide. There are no clear boundaries; there are no time outs. Therefore, for our Force to remain relevant, we must be fully trained and agile. We must be ready to engage where we are needed – when we are needed.

In this magazine, you will find information about the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC). This isn't just about NECC. This is about where we as a Force are heading, and it is about our relevance. Read about NECC. Get familiar with the concept of aligning war fighting capabilities — of consistently coordinating practices, procedures, and requirements. The way NECC trains and equips its members is a change that — in the near future — will allow every Navy Reservist to be part of an agile Force that can "fill the gaps in the joint battle space and complement our coalition partners' capabilities."

Change is rarely easy, especially in military arenas. It's going to take dedication and effort from each of us, but without these changes we cannot remain relevant, and for the sake of our country — for the sake of the free world, that is not an option.

Therefore, read about NECC and begin getting familiar with the way NECC conducts business. NECC is on the cutting edge of the change that is sweeping through our Force.

Unquestionably, the ideas you read in this issue of TNR will soon be positively changing your Navy Reserve experience, if they haven't already!

Warmest regards.



Rear Adm.
Craig O. McDonald
Commander,
Navy Reserve Forces Command

"We must be ready to engage where we are needed - when we are needed."

Submarine tender USS Frank
Cable (AS 40) Sailors listen
as 7th Fleet Commander Vice
Admiral Doug Crowder talks
about the submarine tender's
recent accomplishments. The
crew took time out of their
current phased maintenance
availability to attend the
ceremony where the Admiral
presented the ship with its 12th
Battle "E" award. Frank Cable
is forward deployed to Guam
in support of operations in the
Western Pacific Ocean.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stefanie Broughton



## Sailors Matter



FORCM(SW)
David R. Pennington
Force Master Chief,
Navy Reserve Force

"When we say we cannot do it without the Reserves, we mean it!!"

his month, the focus for the magazine is the Navy Expeditionary Combatant Command (NECC). It goes without saying that this new facet of the U.S. Navy will be long remembered in the annals of Navy history for a couple of different reasons. The war fighting landscape has changed across the world in the Global War on Terror and the traditional role across all aspects of all service components is changed. NECC brings another level of relevance for the Navy in the fight of the future. The integration of the Reserve Component and performance of Sailor's serving has been impressive and revolutionary to say the least, and I could talk a long time about that and other issues related to NECC.

However, I thought a better idea would be for you to hear it from the new Force master chief of NECC. I have been featuring other master chiefs in this column from time to time and I am very excited to "hand the mic" to Force Master Chief Tony Santino. I am proud to call Santino a shipmate and friend, and I am delighted that he agreed to share his views on the new NECC. Nobody is any closer to this enterprise than he is.

Shipmates, I'm grateful for the opportunity to introduce this issue of TNR, which focuses on the Navy's newest type commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command. Established a little more than a year ago, we are a global force provider of expeditionary capabilities to our joint war fighting commanders.

NECC is a model of Active-Reserve integration, with nearly half of our 40,000 expeditionary Sailors from the Reserve Force. Several of our key competencies, such as expeditionary logistics and coastal warfare, come from the Reserve Component. Our Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, which oversees all of the Navy's Individual Augmentees, was stood up almost entirely by Reservists.

**NECC** Reserve Component Forces are actively supporting Coalition forces, U.S. Joint Forces, Naval Special Warfare and Army Special Forces in the Global War on Terror. **EOD Ordnance Clearance** Detachments, fully manned by Reserve EOD and diver personnel, support Anti-Terrorism Force Protection operations. Reserve forces are a force provider to alleviate the high operational tempo of Active Duty EOD forces. Coastal Warfare units provide security and force protection worldwide, particularly in the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf. Reserve Seabee battalions and regiments multiple global operations include constructing base camps; repairing roads, airfields and bridges in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait; and drilling water wells and providing shelter to flood victims in Djibouti and Ethiopia.

Navy Expeditionary
Logistics Support Group
deployed more than 2,000
Sailors in Navy Customs
Battalions to both Iraq and
Kuwait in support of the
various customs missions for
Operation Iraqi Freedom.
Port groups charlie, delta
and echo conducted cargo
operations including mobile
air cargo handling teams in
Kuwait and Iraq.

None of these tremendous accomplishments could have happened without the outstanding men and women serving in our expeditionary force who, even at this moment, are globally deployed providing relevant real-time combat support to the joint war fighting commanders.

As this issue shows, NECC brings core maritime capabilities to the expeditionary environment, and the Navy Reserve is a critical part of that. When we say we cannot do it without the Reserves, we mean it! To all of our Reserve warriors and their families, thank you foryour service and sacrifice.

Thank you for what you do! See you on the deck plates.





### Spirituality and Combat Stress

ne of the most neglected areas of work in dealing with our mobilized Sailors is "Spirituality and Combat Stress." We have little problem identifying the physical impact on the Sailor or even the way combat may affect the way a person thinks. We see too often what combat experience does to personal relationships, but when it comes to the connection with the "spiritual," we have a hard time getting a good grasp on what is happening to an individual.

Spirituality balances out our thoughts, emotions and behaviors. It drives us as individuals. It includes our spiritual belief coupled with our experience of a higher power and matches the way we have lived out our spirituality.

Believe me, I do not want to sound too "heady" and other worldly here, but the reality is trauma caused by things like combat affect us spiritually. Sometimes it's positive — causing us to grow or be stronger, and sometimes it's negative — causing a loss of faith in all things in our lives. Perhaps that is the reason four out of 10 people with mental health problems seek the help of a chaplain or spiritual advisor.

Ninety-three percent of the general population "believe in God." Many belong to organized groups that practice that belief regularly in churches, synagogues and mosques. Others just identify themselves as spiritual; having a personal, private relationship with their maker. A good healthy spirituality has great

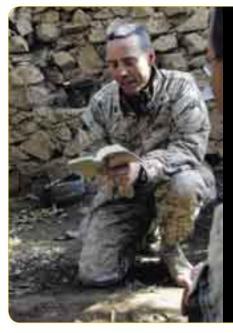
possibilities for helping a person to heal and to improve their health and well-being. It can provide supportive and healthy social networks. Spirituality also offers new ways of thinking and processing experiences to make meaning out of the traumatic events of combat.

The spiritual men and women

in our chaplain corps, the Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy and our partnerships with the civilian communities have a unique contribution in identifying and recovering from combat stress. When a Sailor is plagued by re-experiencing combat events or is self focused, the spiritual

professional can offer a balanced reflection and external focus to their life. In isolation and disconnection, the chaplain can help a person to reconnect with a healthy community and make the person feel a part of building that community.

Combat produces a feeling of numbness and a sense of a foreshortened future. Connection with a clergy person can help a person to find meaning in life again with purpose and hope. For centuries, the great men and women of the ages have sought out the God experience to bring them relaxation and peace of mind as well as help them with concentration. This is so helpful when a Sailor has experienced anxiety and a loss of sleep or an inability to concentrate. When he or she is angry or feels hostile toward another because



U.S. Navy Chaplain, Lt. Jeffery R. BorneMann reads a passage from a Bible at a religious service in Husaybah, Iraq during Operation Steel Curtain.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Michael R. McMaugh

of a traumatic experience, who better to be compassionate and offer forgiveness than a chaplain. Lastly, when the trauma of combat produces guilt or self-blame, a good spiritual grounding can help restore that self worth and again provide forgiveness.

Throughout our force, chaplains are working side by side with our mental health professionals and commands to restore our Sailors to their families and loved ones and helping them to return as valued members of our Navy.

## NCCM(AW/SW) Cynthia Blevins



Force Career Counselor, Navy Reserve Force



ow, April 2007 already! A new year is well underway. I decided this month to write about things that sometimes are overlooked. Sort of a "Things to Know" article. So, I have chosen four areas to touch upon. I will not go into a lot of details, but will pass on the Web site address or a Point of Contact (POC) for further information.

1. Did you know: Due to the lack of a **Performance Mark Average** (PMA) not computed and annotated on some advancement exams, the results were held up a very long time. As the member taking an exam, you need to be aware of your PMA. If you have signed your evaluation, there should be a PMA average on your worksheet. If the PMA average is not on your worksheet, inform your PSD. On exam day, verify your correct PMA is on your worksheet and/or on your exam. Inform the proctor if something is wrong. There is no reason, unless you have not received your evaluation yet, that the PMA block should be blank. Please take a moment to review this and ask questions about it. If problems are fixed prior to the submission of the exams to Pensacola, Fla., the staff at the exam center can grade and release the results quicker. Good luck to all who have or are taking the exams. POC: Your command career counselor or educational services office representative.

**2.** Did you know: The **National Call to Service** (NCS) is in full swing. If you have a Sailor coming to your command, I encourage mentorship and command hospitality. Just think back when you were a new Sailor and how much you did not know. These young Sailors are now in your home, and are looking forward to being part of the team. Be ready to help. Please review NAVADMIN's 192/05 and 189/06 for further guidance or contact NCC(SW) John Stokes at 504-678-5392 (DSN) 678-5392.

3. Did you know: The **High Year Tenure** (HYT) policy took effect in January 2006, and we are still receiving many questions about the program. If you will reach your HYT this year, you will be asked to transfer to the retired list the month of your HYT. Example: You are a chief with 24 years as of June 2007. You will retire in June 2007 vice waiting until December as in previous years. Interested in a waiver? You can apply within one year, but no later than six months prior to HYT month. Please give ample time for PERS-49 to review your request and respond. NAVADMIN 060/05 or MILPERSMAN 1160-130 discuss all the requirements for the HYT, or contact PSCS(AW) John Gigliotti at 901-874-4470 (DSN) 882-4470.

4. Did you know: The Social Security Administration (SSA) allows extra money to military members who served between 1940 through 2001? When you apply for your SSA, you need to have ALL of your DD-214's. Reserve members are authorized this benefit. They, too, need all DD-214's at the ready. By pre-planning, you have time to gather your forms, and if you are missing one, you have time to get the forms and put them away for future use. For more details, go to http://www.ssa.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please e-mail me at cynthia.blevins@navy.mil.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kurt Eishen

### Axis of Evil: Trans Fals



healthy diet and regular exercise are both necessary in maintaining one's health. Recently, trans fat, or trans fatty acids, has made headlines about the detriment it has on anyone who eats it. Trans fats have been linked to obesity, heart disease and is even believed to raise one's bad cholesterol (LDL) while lowering the good (HDL). Cleaning trans fat out of your diet will not only help you maintain your health, it will help you maintain a culture of fitness.

Trans fat first found its way into the American diet around 1911, and has since become a common ingredient in many of the foods we have come to rely on as staples. Most notably occurring in fried foods, we may think we are safe from it if we

stay away from the french fries and fried chicken at local fast food

restaurants. Avoiding fried foods is certainly a healthy habit, but there's more you should know.

Along with avoiding fried foods, you should learn to read the labels and ingredient lists of the packaged foods you buy in the grocery store. The FDA now

requires food manufacturers to list trans fat separately on nutritional labels. So, reading the nutritional label is good place to start. Listed as a subcategory under fat content, look for items that read zero trans fat. Here's the wrinkle, though: food items can have as much as 0.5 grams of trans fat per serving and still list trans fat content as zero. So, it's

beneficial to also read the ingredient list of packaged foods. In the ingredient list, look for partially hydrogenated oil and avoid foods that have it.

Some foods that commonly have partially hydrogenated oil as an ingredient are shortenings and some margarines, as well as many cookies, crackers and snack foods. Also, beware of many baked goods and pastries. Even some foods marketed as "whole grain," "wholesome" or "low fat" may still have partially hydrogenated oil as an ingredient. In short, read the labels and choose only foods without partially hydrogenated oil as an ingredient.

One more thing to keep in mind is that some trans fat occurs naturally in

some foods. Small amounts
of trans fat can be found
in some meat and dairy
products. Again, read
the nutrition label
if one is available. If
one isn't available
(meats don't always
have one, for example),
opt for lower fat varieties

whenever possible.

Remember, fitness is more than regular exercise. In order to live a healthy life, we must fuel our bodies with nourishing food. Read labels and ingredient lists and choose foods with zero trans fat and no partially hydrogenated oils. Avoiding trans fat is a step towards maintaining your health and strengthening the Navy's Culture of Fitness.

# Focus n Families

by Pat Nicholson, Force Family Support Program Manager

## The Month of the Military Child

ilitary children face many obstacles unique to their situation, such as having a parent deployed or mobilized for extended periods of time.

Military families, if they plan ahead, can go a long way in preparing their children for mobilization or deployment. Communication is a key element in helping children adapt to the deployment/mobilization of a parent.

Today's technology provides ways

to make those separations a little easier. Computers can provide children a way to stay in touch with the parent through sending e-mails and photos. Also, parents like to get mail the old fashioned way, so have the children write letters and send pictures.

There is a variety of stationary children can use to write those special letters to a deployed parent. Besides shopping at a local craft store, another place to obtain stationary is a "Hero Pack" sponsored by Operation Military Kids. "Hero Packs" are a way to thank children and youth for the sacrifices they make when their parents are deployed. The goal of Operation Military Kids

is to support geographically dispersed children and youth of deployed service members.

Some of the national partners of Operation *Military Kids* include the National 4-H Club Headquarters, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and several veteran service organizations. Additionally, many states have included a variety of additional partners in their states teams. To date, not all states have an active *Military Kids* program. Visit www.operationmilitarykids.org

The daughter of a Sailor holds a sign welcoming her father back during

the homecoming ceremony for the guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71). The ship and her crew are returning from deployment as part

of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 and support of Operation Active

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Joshua Adam Nuzzo

Endeavor in the Mediterranean Sea.

to see if your state is participating in this program.

Children can be very demanding. Compound that with a parent in the military, and a new challenge emerges for military families. Your Navy Family Ombudsmen are there to provide information and referral to you with available resources to assist children becoming emotionally prepared before, during and after the mobilization of a parent. Ombudsmen maintain a file of local

resources in your area that can be invaluable in providing referrals for needed services. Contact your local ombudsman to get assistance in preparing a Family Readiness Plan. This will help accommodate the needs of your children.

I would like to thank our Navy Reserve Force Ombudsman, Dena Strong, for her support over the past two years. Dena and her husband. Senior Chief Aircrew Survival Equipmentman Kevin Strong, will be transitioning from military service this month. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors and the traditional fair winds and following seas.

TNE

The TNR Mail Buoy will get your answers from RC leaders monthly to satisfy your curiosities and quell rumor mills. Send your questions to NAVRESFOR\_TNR@navy.mil.

# E Q&A III MAIL BUOY

#### Ouestion:

I heard that we can now conduct the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) by using an elliptical machine. What should I do if I want to use this option?

#### Answer:

Get an early start. One thing I've noticed is the people who have a tendency to use the elliptical machine throughout the week think using the elliptical would be the best cardio option for them for the PFA.

This is a very nonchalant way of thinking about things. When a regular PFA is conducted, sit-and-reach, push-ups and sit-ups are performed before the run. You're going to be a bit more fatigued after those exercises than if you just jumped on the elliptical like normal.

You also need to practice. Try doing the whole PFA three to five times a week before the official run. My suggestion is, if you feel comfortable running it, run it. If you've had a lot of practice on the elliptical, that may work for you.

There's a misconception that people think they will just be able to hop onto an elliptical machine and pass the PFA – these people are sadly mistaken.

Most of all, go in with your eyes open. We're not giving anyone a false sense of security about the elliptical; we're here to dispel rumors.

To achieve a fairly decent score, the machine needs to be set at a level 15 or higher. This is a low-impact option, but a high-cardio choice.

I would hate for scores to drop because Sailors want to try something new. Contact your command fitness leader ASAP if you want to try it out before the official PFA.

> Lt. Patrick German, Navy Reserve Force Fitness Officer patrick.german@navy.mil



Personnel Specialist 1st Class(SCW) Wendell Sam uses the elliptical machine as part of his daily work-out regime.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kurt Eischen

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

Homelown: Westchester, N.Y.

**Brief description of your job:** Providing physicals and immunizations to Sailors, helping to keep their physical readiness up to date.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement: Serving my country.

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy: My father. He's been totally supportive of me every step of the way.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy: Traveling.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy: Japan.

Current hobbies: Playing soccer and home renovation activities.

We have many talented people in our Navy. Each month we highlight our stellar Sailors and some of the unique careers, skills and services they are providing to the fleet. E-mail the editor, <code>navresfor\_tnr@navy.mil</code>, for the submission form if you'd like to nominate a Sailor. Please include a high-resolution (300 dpi) 5"x 7" digital photo of the candidate.



Hospital Corpsman I st Class Hernal Beaumont

Hometown: Schaghticoke, N.Y.

Brief description of your job: Maintain the electricity and the

phone systems of the base.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement: Discipline. Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy: My wife.

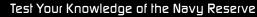
What do you enjoy most about the Navy: The opportunity to help others.

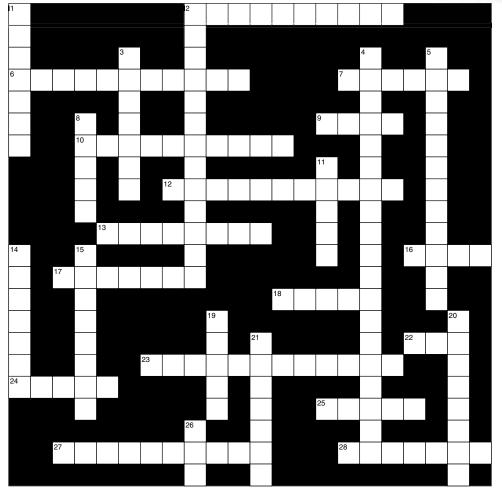
Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy: Scotland.

Current hobbies: Golfing, bowling and riding my motorcycle.



Constructional Electrician 2nd Class Brian McGovern







The solution for this conundrum is on page 33.

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es APPLY fans, the APPLY season is in full bloom and we're excited about it down here in the "Big Easy." The process began January 8th when the APPLY Web site was opened up for online registration. All officers, regardless of paygrade or status, are required to register at http://navyreserve.navy.mil/Public/Staff/WelcomeAboard/default.htm.

#### FY08 APPLY BOARD TIMELINE

by Chief Personnel Specialist(SW) Donnell D. Wright

1 March	Operational Support Officers shall begin updating billet comments.
16 March	Deadline for submission of Board membership and Board support application packages to COMNAVRESFORCOM (N12) at: http://navyreserve.navy.mil/Public/Staff/WelcomeAboard/default.htm.
31 March	Deadline for Echelon IVs/Vs to ensure FY07 APPLY orders and PRDs are executed and correctly entered in the IDT orderwriter and NSIPS.
1 May-14 June	COMNAVRESFORCOM will advertise billet vacancies for review only.
18 May	Deadline to submit billet assignment/PRD extension requests to COMNAVRESFORCOM (N12). All Echelon IV, V, VI deadline for completing assignment/PRD review.
<b>31 May</b>	Deadline for all supported command "comments" input. COMNAVRESFORCOM (N12) will review and remove all inappropriate and outdated comments.
15 June-31 July	N12 will freeze the billet file to stabilize billets from being deleted or created while final applicants are creating their dreamsheet.
31 July	Final day for application and dreamsheet updates. On-line APPLY registration closed at midnight (CST).
1 August	Delivery deadline for all Reserve officer APPLY applicants to submit supplemental package to the president of the APPLY Board.  If mailed, must be received no later than 1 Aug. 07.  Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command Attention: APPLY 4400 Dauphine Street New Orleans, La. 70146  If delivered, must be received by NAVPERSCOM Customer Service Center (PERS-00R) personnel
	NLT 7 p.m. (CST), 1 Aug. 07.  The hours of customer service will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (CST). COMNAVRESFORCOM (N12) personnel are not authorized to receive, handle or deliver any official correspondence.

It is important that all officers review their APPLY record, as well as their official OSR prior to the convening date of the APPLY Board. You don't want to lose out on a command opportunity because of missing information. Billet to officer ratio is one to three, so it is imperative that your record is complete and up to date as competition is very keen. Contact Lt. JoAnn Fifield at joann.fifield@navy.mil or Chief Personnel Specialist Donnell D. Wright at donnell.wright@navy.mil for any questions or concerns.

# In the September 2006 TNR we focused on the make-up of the Commander Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) Navy Reserve Policy Board (NRPB), its annual meeting schedule, the issue

n the September 2006 TNR
we focused on the make-up of
the Commander Navy Reserve
Forces Command (CNRFC) Navy
Reserve Policy Board (NRPB), its
annual meeting schedule, the issue
submission process and presented a
cross section of recently adjudicated
issues. This month we will highlight
the new policy board process, how
the board fits into the Navy chain of
command, where to find information
about the board, and how you can be a
part of this dynamic process.

Historically, the annual policy board was held in New Orleans and has been an effective method of resolving up to 100 issues in one week. However, the process was cumbersome and tied to a rigid annual schedule. To improve responsiveness to our Sailors, the NRPB is now using available technology to meet virtually throughout the year to discuss and make recommendations on policy issues as necessary. Additionally, to enhance communications between the NRPB and National Navy Reserve Policy Board (NNRPB), both boards have instituted year-round issue resolution, called the "Evergreen Process."

This process allows issues to be submitted at any time and worked on throughout the year.

Where can you find information on the CNRF NRPB? Either the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Web site or the CNRFC private side home page. We are improving the NKO NRPB site to make it virtually indistinguishable from the NNRPB site by improving functionality and facilitating issue resolution. NKO users soon will be able to view general information about the board including current and past issues as well as a subject matter library on the issues. Also listed on

#### Partial Payment of Annual Training (AT)/ Active Duty Training (ADT) For Periods Less Than 30 Days

Issue: Under current policy and regulations, Drilling Reservists who are on AT/ADT for a period of 29 days will not be paid (Active Duty pay and per diem) until day 29, vice day 15 and day 29. This often creates a hardship for our Sailors.

Resolution: Drilling Reservists should not have to wait any longer than an Active Duty Sailor for a paycheck. Changes being made to the Defense Joint Military Pay System-Reserve Component will facilitate payments in the near future, but a personnel service detachment can process a transaction in Defense MilPay Office which will place the Reservist on a 15-day pay cycle - the same as Active Duty Sailors.

#### Point Capture of Active Duty Time

Issue: Currently, there is no automatic way for retirement point credits to be updated after completing an Active Duty period (AT, ADT, ADSW or mobilization).

**Resolution:** A systematic limitation affects the automatic crediting of Active Duty points. The next generation of U.S. Navy personnel systems will automate the process.

Until one of these systems is deployed, the PSD demobilizing the member should send the DD-214 to Navy Reserve Personnel Center (NRPC). The point of contact at NRPC is Dennis Rumpza, at (901) 874-5925.



the NKO NRPB site will be a policy issue submission form as well as chain of command endorsement letters. There will also be information posted on application procedures for those interested in serving on the board.

What can you submit to the board? We strongly encourage items containing new initiatives or those that contribute to the increased readiness of the Navy Reserve.

# When submitting please remember the following:

- Is the proposed policy or process good for the Navy as a whole or does it enhance Active Reserve Integration?
- Does the proposed policy address cost vs. effectiveness?
- Is the rationale sufficiently developed to generate concurrence within the Navy, Department of Defense, and Congress, as applicable?
- Is the issue or proposal consistent with the Total Force policy and able to improve Force readiness?

COMNAVRESFORCOM has already selected board members for the 2007 board cycle. If you would like to serve on future boards, we anticipate soliciting membership applications in the spring of 2007. Check for updated information on NKO or the "NavRes Policy Board" link on the left side of the Commander Navy Reserve Forces Command private side homepage.

As the role of the Navy Reserve expands, the NRPB will continue to serve a vital role in adjudicating policy issues affecting the total force. Understanding how the board operates is important to ensure that policy issues that cannot be resolved locally are forwarded and given appropriate visibility.

#### Active Marketing of CNRFC Staff Code Programs and Services to SELRES Members

Reserve workforce, a better understanding of CNRFC staff is critical to SELRES. Information of this type is often lacking due to time and resource constraints. Recommend information about the mission and responsibilities of the N-codes at CNRFC be promulgated in *The Navy Reservist* (TNR) to include mission areas, programs, and issues of importance, points of contact, key URLs, and policy information.

Resolution: The board did not concur on the use of the TNR for dissemination of such information. Relevant information is provided (including policy updates) to the Force via regular e-mail transmittals, monthly via TNR magazine and by visiting the CNRFC Web site.

#### Commissary Privileges

Issue: Why are we limited to commissary shopping only during our periods of Active Duty?

Why can't we shop any time we want? If we have 12 or 14 days of Active Duty, why can't we shop one day a month or four times a year. We should have day for day shopping that correlates with day to day Active Duty.

Resolution: These questions resulted in the commissary card, which finally resulted in unlimited privileges for Reservists at the commissary.

# NAVY

# EXPEDITIONARY

NORFOLK — January 13 marks the one-year anniversary since the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., began its mission to organize, train and equip our forces to meet the maritime security operations and joint contingency operations requirements.

NECC's Deputy Commander, Rear Adm. Jamie Barnett, pointed out how the command has set an ambitious pace in its first year of operations.

"We started off with 15 people at our headquarters and now we're up to a staff of 146. In that time period we have stood up a riverine group equipped with two squadrons, a Maritime Civil Affairs Group (MCAG), and an Expeditionary Training Command (ETC)," said Barnett.

NECC also focused internally, looking at its existing units and making changes within to better serve its Sailors.

"In the area of community management and expertise we've created a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal and divers rate," said Barnett. One of the biggest things we've done in a very short period of time is we've created the Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist(EXW) pin."

# LOOKS BACK ON ITS INAUGURAL YEAR

by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kenneth R. Hendrix, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

REALIGN

REDISTRIBUTE

RECOGNIZE

To integrate better training for the expedionary fight and the individual augmentees who often support it, NECC helped to create the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), which began operations Oct. 10.

"It's been monumental for the Sailors who are forwarded as Individual Augmentees, because in the past they just went somewhere for training and they didn't have any type of command liaison on location that could provide them administrative support," said Cmdr. Laura Venable, ECRC executive officer.

NECC served to integrate expeditionary efforts under one command, effectively increasing maritime security and improving war fighting effectiveness.

"We took capabilities the Navy has had for a while and we're regenerating some new capabilities and everything now operates together," said Barnett. "In the past some things were kind of off by themselves, but now we can provide an umbrella for them both from an administrative stand point, and also in theatre, which helps our Navy and joint partners."

Barnett said with the NECC concept of operation togetherness, they've contributed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and the Horn of Africa.

"NECC has been able to be a major contributor to the concept of maritime security, making us a major part of the Navy's contribution to the joint operations and integrations," said Barnett.

Over all, 2006 was a triumphant year for NECC and Barnett expects to see nothing less than another perfect year in 2007 and in the years to come.

"This is a growth industry," said Barnett. "It is fascinating; we're having a lot of interest from Sailors that want to get into this and we're going to do our best to provide great careers in expeditionary combat."

NECC integrates all war fighting requirements for expeditionary combat and combat support elements. This transformation allows for standardized training, manning and equipping of Sailors who will participate in the maritime security operations and the Global War on Terror as part of the joint force.

TNR

# COMBAT COMMAND

### NECC RESERVE SAILORS ELIGIBLE FOR EXW PIN

by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist(SW/AW) Dave Nagle, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

ORFOLK – Navy Reservists serving with certain Navy Expeditionary Combat Command units have the opportunity to earn the Navy's newest warfare qualification, the Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist (EXW).

Sailors permanently assigned to type two or four sea duty at a NECC subordinate unit with an approved EXW program are eligible to earn the EXW designation, as well as Sailors serving at a Reserve Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron (NCWS), Inshore Boat Unit (IBU), or Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (MIUWU).

The EXW qualification signifies a volunteer for Naval Expeditionary Warfare Duty achieved a level of excellence and proficiency in the operation of expeditionary warfare. It also signifies a Sailor is operationally competent and has acquired additional knowledge that enhances the understanding of war fighting, mission effectiveness, and unit survivability as demonstrated by knowledge of navigation, communication, engineering, weapons, and deck systems.

The EXW program, however, is not open to Sailors serving as Individual Augmentees (IA) or In Lieu Of (ILO) forces. NECC's Force Master Chief Tony Santino explained while IA and ILO forces are administratively organized under NECC, the nature of most of their assignments do not cover the broad spectrum of expeditionary warfare.

"The EXW program is about maritime security in an expeditionary environment and was developed to improve the combat readiness of Sailors assigned within NECC," said Santino.

The intent of the program, added Santino, is to develop a cadre of Sailors with expeditionary skill sets and remain in the expeditionary warfare community as a career.

The first EXW pin was awarded to Master-at-Arms 2nd Class

(EXW) Carl Hurtt, Jr. of Mobile Security

Squadron 7 in Guam on Dec. 15, 2006.

More details about the EXW program are available in OPNAV Instruction 1414.7.

TNR



Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Pin comes in two finishes: silver oxidized (pictured above) and rhodium high-polish.

Commander, Navy
Expeditionary Combat
Command, Rear Adm.
Donald Bullard, displays the
Navy's first Expeditionary
Warfare pin, awarded
to Master-at-Arms 2nd
Class Carl Hurtt, assigned
to Mobile Security
Squadron (MSS) 7, during
a ceremony on board U.S.
Naval Base Guam.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Edward N. Vasquez

April 07•navyreserve.navy.mil•TNR• | 5



## **COLORS**



by CNRFC Public Affairs

Graphics by Bryan Bordelon

his month the TNR is focusing on how all the branches of service render their flag honors on their respective installation. In our current military, you will most likely find yourself conducting a joint mission on an installation different from your own. This Back to Basics provides the knowledge you may need in the future. The Basic Military Requirements Manual was referenced for this edition.

#### ON NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD BASES

At commands ashore and aboard ships of the Navy and Coast Guard not under way, the ceremonial hoisting and lowering of United States Flag at 8 a.m. and sunset are known as morning and evening colors.

#### YOU WILL RENDER HONORS AS FOLLOWS:

- If in ranks, you'll be called to attention or order arms.
- If in uniform but not in ranks, face the colors and give the hand salute.
- If driving a vehicle, stop and sit at attention but do not salute.
- If a passenger in a boat, remain at attention, seated or standing. The boat officer or coxswain salutes for the boat.
- If in civilian clothes or athletic uniform, face the colors at attention and salute by placing your right hand over your heart.
- Aboard Navy ships or naval shore activities, when the national ensign is hoisted and lowered or half-masted for any occasion, the motions of the senior officer present are followed.

Five minutes before morning and evening colors, the preparative pennant (prep) is hoisted.



Ceremonies for colors begin when prep is hauled to the dip (the halfway point).

Ships not under way also hoist and lower the union jack on the jackstaff, at the ship's bow, and at morning and evening colors. The union jack is the rectangular blue part of the United States Flag containing the stars.

At morning colors, hoisting the ensign begins when the National Anthem starts. The national ensign is hoisted "smartly" to the top of the flagstaff.

At evening colors, lowering of the ensign also starts at the beginning of the music. Hoisting and lowering of the ensign are completed at the last note of the music.

# THE NATIONAL FLAG IS ALWAYS HOISTED SMARTLY AND LOWERED CEREMONIOUSLY.

"Carry on" is sounded at the completion of the music.

If a band is not available for colors, "The Star-Spangled
Banner" is played at morning colors and "Retreat" is played at
evening colors.

For ships without a band or a bugler, "Attention" and "Carry on" are signals for beginning and terminating the hand salute.

Sometimes the music for colors from another U.S. ship can be overheard aboard your ship. When this happens, and no band or bugler is aboard your ship, the command to "Carry on" should not be given until the music being overheard is completed.

After morning colors, if foreign warships are present, the national anthem of each country represented is also played. If your ship is visiting a foreign country, the national anthem of that country is played immediately following morning colors, followed by the national anthems of any other foreign nations represented. You should show the same respect for national anthems of foreign countries as you do for our own.

On Sundays, authorized holidays, and other days proclaimed by the president, the largest national ensign in the ship's or station's allowance is flown. This ensign is referred to as holiday colors. When the holiday colors are flown on a U.S. ship not under way, the union jack flown is the same size as the blue field in the holiday colors.



U.S. Navy Sailors observe morning colors while manning the rails aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in San Diego, Jan. 27, 2007. More than 5,500 Sailors from the Ronald Reagan Strike Group are departed on a surge deployment in support of U.S. military operations in the Western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John P. Curtis



#### ON U.S. ARMY AND U.S. AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS

"Reveille" was originally conducted as "Troop" in 1812 and was designed to muster the unit or for roll call and additionally to signal sentries to leave off night challenging. It was not originally intended specifically as honors for the flag.

Today, reveille is conducted to honor the U.S. flag as it is raised in the morning. Honors (salute) during reveille should be rendered similar to the procedure for retreat. Army and Air Force commands may conduct a command reveille or command retreat ceremony to help honor special days or events (Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, POW/MIA Day).

Reveille is conducted at different times on Army posts and Air Force bases. The time is set according to the installation commander. It can be as early as 6 a.m. or as late as 7:30 a.m.

The bugle call sounded at "Retreat" was first used in the French army and dates back to the Crusades.

Retreat was sounded at sunset to notify sentries to start challenging until sunrise, and to tell the rank and file to go to their quarters. During the 18th century, command retreat was a daily occurrence, not to honor the flag but as a signal for

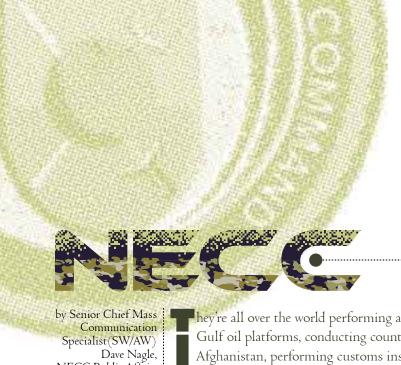
units to call the roll as a final accounting before reveille the following morning.

Today, retreat is conducted in the evening, and again, the times vary according to the commander of the installation. The bugle may sound as early as 5 p.m. or as late as 6 p.m.

The ceremony remains a tradition in today's military by marking the end of the military day and honoring the flag as it is lowered. The bugle call "Retreat" precedes the flag ceremony.

At the first sound of the bugle, face the flag, or sound of the bugle if the flag is not visible and stand at parade rest. When you see the flag being lowered or hear the bugle call "To the Colors" or the national anthem, come to attention and render a salute. Hold a salute until the flag is lowered or music ends.

Civilians should stand at attention, facing the flag or music with their right hand over their heart. Vehicles should stop during both reveille and retreat. Passengers should remain quietly seated.



NECC Public Affairs

hey're all over the world performing a variety of missions – providing security on North Arabian Gulf oil platforms, conducting counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, performing customs inspections in Kuwait or drilling and developing potable water wells in villages in the Horn of Africa.

he expeditionary professionals of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), an integrated force of nearly 40,000 Sailors, perform these operations along with many others. Half. of the Sailors are from the Reserve Component. They provide core Navy capabilities in the green and brown water environment.

NECC is a global force made up of long standing Navy units and a continuum of new capabilities unique to the expeditionary maritime environment to support joint forces.

"NECC meets joint forces" demand signal across the globe by providing adaptive force packages of scalable expeditionary capabilities to support both combatant commanders and in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief contingencies," said NECC

Deputy Commander Rear Adm. Jamie Barnett.

The post 9/11 world and the Global War on Terror demonstrated the increasing importance of the Navy's expeditionary capability as a complement to the open-ocean maritime battle space.

Additionally, the Navy recognized a need to expand our core maritime capabilities into the coastal and inland environments to fill war fighting gaps in the maritime domain.

As the Navy's newest Type

Commander (TYCOM), NECC aligned existing capabilities under one functional commander.

The TYCOM is responsible for providing expeditionary forces with the right people, equipment and training to effectively operate in the expeditionary maritime environment.

NECC is also building a continuum of new capabilities unique to the expeditionary maritime environment to support our joint forces.



### FIII

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams conduct counter IED operations, render safe explosive hazards and disarm underwater explosives such as mines. Mobile diving and salvage units clear harbors of navigation hazards, perform underwater search and recovery operations and perform limited underwater repairs on ships. EOD detachments are supporting Navy carrier and expeditionary strike groups, U.S. Joint Forces, coalition forces, Naval Special Warfare and Army Special Forces in the Global War on Terror.

## RIVRON

Maintaining control of rivers and waterways, the riverine force denies terrorists the use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or for illegal purposes such as piracy and hijacking. Riverine maritime security operations ensure a safe and secure maritime environment so that legitimate trade continues and critical lines of communication remain open. NECC established Riverine Group squadrons (RIVRON I and 2) in Norfolk with a third squadron to be formally established later this year.

RIVRON I recently deployed to the Central Command area of operations one.

# MCAG

The Maritime Civil Affairs Group is an enabling force that works directly with civil authorities and civilian populations in the maritime environment and is capable of handling specialty issues like maritime law, marine fisheries, port operations, security and administration, port customs, and maritime immigration in addition to standard civil affairs issues. Two civil affairs squadrons are completing regional cultural and language training, with trained teams at initial operational capability by this summer.

Supporting the thousands of Sailors around the globe serving as Individual Augmentees (IA), the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center oversees training, equipping, deploying and redeploying our IA forces, as well as supporting their families by providing a means for communication, resource and referral through their Web site and toll free careline.

# ECRC

Seabees make up more than onethird of the NECC force and are heavily engaged throughout the world. They are currently operating in Iraq and Afghanistan constructing base camps, roads, airfields and repairing bridges and buildings. In addition, Seabees built a school dormitory and drilled water wells in Djibouti and provided shelter to flood victims in Ethiopia. They have also provided humanitarian relief in Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, East and West Timor and the Philippines.

To meet the Seabees' high operational demand, the First Naval Construction Division is forming a ninth Active naval mobile construction battalion and a third Active naval construction regiment. The ninth battalion allows the Seabees to be on the same rotation as the rest of the Navy – six months deployed and 12 months in homeport training.

# SEABEES

The Expeditionary Training Command (ETC) supports the Chief of Naval Operations' I,000-Ship Navy concept by providing timely, focused and customized training in maritime capabilities such as small boat operations and port security to partner nations. ETC teams increase global maritime security capabilities and the host nation's capacity to govern and protect themselves. These training teams will be ready to deploy this summer.

### ETG



The Maritime Expeditionary
Security Force re-aligns existing
Navy security force and naval
coastal warfare units into an
integrated maritime security force.
These scalable security teams will
be capable of defending mission
critical assets in the near-coast
environment, provide ground and
afloat defense, along with a wide
range of tasks such as detention
operations and law enforcement.

NAVELS

and handling.

In addition, NECC assumed oversight of Combat Camera Atlantic and the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

# Combat Camera

Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion

# MESF



The Navy Expeditionary Logistics

Support Group, comprised

of mostly Reservists, delivers

worldwide support to conduct

missions, customs inspections,

freight terminal and warehouse

operations and ordnance reporting

port and air cargo handling

One of NECC's goals is to develop an expeditionary warfare career path for officers and enlisted, allowing us to develop a cadre of seasoned professionals with expeditionary skill sets. The EOD and Diver communities were established as their own separate ratings in 2006.

Barnett praised the efforts of the entire expeditionary force and pointed out how critical the Reserve Force is to NECC.

"NECC is a great example of Active-Reserve integration at work," he said. "Our Expeditionary Logistics Support Group provides outstanding support in Central Command, along with Reserve coastal warfare and Seabee units. The majority of the individual augmentees and temporary forces we support through ECRC are Reservists. They are a vital part of our total Force."

While NECC may be a new organization established in response to the Global War on Terror, NECC's capabilities are traditional capabilities that extend beyond the current war.

"NECC is a global force taking core Navy competencies and moving them into the maritime expeditionary environment," Barnett said. "Our Sailors are in every theater of operations, not just in Iraq and Afghanistan, conducting maritime security operations and performing humanitarian assistance. NECC Sailors, both Active and Reserve, are a major and relevant part of the Navy's contribution to joint war fighting and theater security cooperation around the globe."



Navy Customs Battalion Romeo is tasked with inspecting items such as regular personal baggage, vehicles, and any type of military equipment returning home. This ensures any type of pests, foreign plants, or contraband items do not enter the United States.

"We want to prevent contraband items from entering the United States and protect the integrity of America," said Senior Chief Operations Specialist Roy McDonald, leading senior chief petty officer. "We need to maintain sterility at all times, which is why it looks like a prison around here with the barbed wire and chain linked fencing."

UWAIT — Navy Customs Battalion Romeo, consisting of Navy Reservists mobilized, trained, equipped and deployed by Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, cleared the luggage of more than 600 troops heading home for the holidays Dec. 23, 2006.

once you get the hang of it," Sellers said.

During the process, inspectors are looking for metal objects like ammunition, magazines,

Ogarro.

Sailors are crosstrained and qualified in all areas of the operation from briefing, x-raying, inspecting bags and

supervising, which allows them to rotate and do different types of tasks.

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Evelyn Sellers enjoys x-raying luggage. "I love x-raying; it makes time go by fast

grenades and explosives. After the x-ray process, the troops' possessions are searched thoroughly by inspectors like Storekeeper 3rd Class Natasha

"I like meeting new people and hearing stories, which is why I like doing the bag inspection process," Ogarro said.

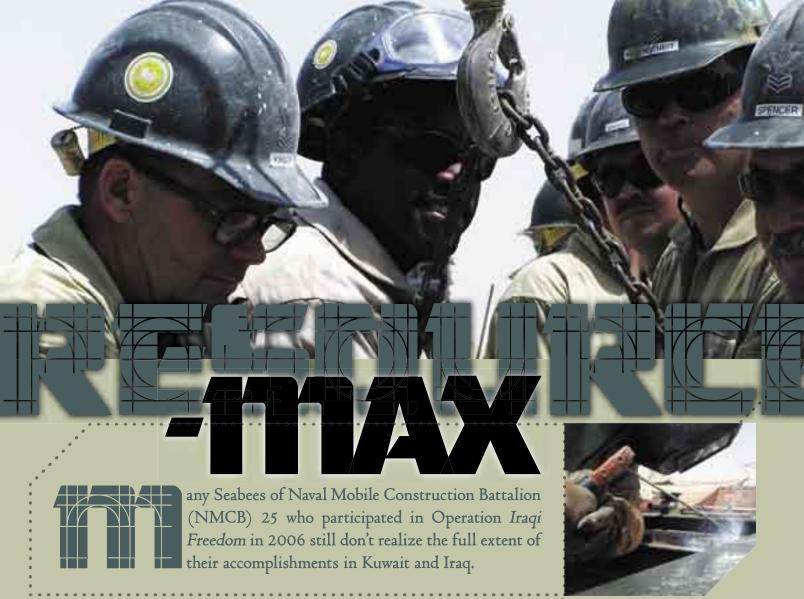
The troops returning home also play an important role in the inspection

"We have the troops help us out by taking care of their people's things," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Duston Dean. "The only time we actually have to touch anything, is when it's on the inspection table and we're searching through it to make sure there is nothing illegal or contraband items in the bags. They have control of their bags, and we have control of making sure the luggage stays sterile."

Military personnel going through whole procedure of being inspected, like Pfc. Matthew Brantley, assigned to 4th Brigade 25th Infantry Division, understands the job the Navy does everyday.

"Everything was pretty thorough and I like how everything is set up in different stages to make things simple. They have people in charge that know what they're doing and it makes time go by faster," Brantley said.

Navy Custom Battalion Romeo took over from Navy Customs Battalion Papa Sept. 18 and to date has inspected more than 100,000 troops redeploying or returning home. TNR



Many individuals outside the battalion assume deployed battalion members work in close proximity. During their 2006 deployment, NMCB-25 divided into detachments that worked at sites all across Western Iraq. The battalion was able to accomplish a comprehensive list of mission goals through this complex, yet strategic, planning.

The detachments were ultimately supported and controlled by battalion headquarters, with Cmdr. David F. Marasco as their commanding officer. Marasco, a 20-year Navy veteran, was partially chosen for the position because of his prior deployments to the Middle East and his ability to command under difficult circumstances.

In a post deployment statement, he acknowledged those who served with him. "Words cannot express how much of an honor it has been for me to have served as commanding officer for the finest men and women I have ever been surrounded by," said Marasco. "The Seabees of 25 have accomplished so much in such a short period of time and

Seabee steelworker assists construction mechanics with vehicle repairs.

besides being heroes, they are all 'leaders' of Can-Do! They did it right, they made a difference, and they have all made me extremely roud."

NMCB-25's overall mission in Iraq was to provide construction, engineering and transportation support to the Ist Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF).

With more than 500 Seabees working at nearly a dozen detachment sites, it took skillful command coordination and stern control of limited resources to complete scores of missions successfully.

Four types of teams would handle road repairs, convoys of raw materials (Rockhound crews), well drilling and convoy escorts.

The road repair crew's primary mission was to improve the infrastructure of Iraq. The



EOC(SCW) William Kirsch EO1(SCW/SW) Sam Gaillard EO2(SCW) Michael Nelson EO1(SCW) Mark Hebenstreit CM1 Kent Spencer.

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist Ist Class Benjamin Franklin

Additional photos by Equipment Operator Ist Class(SCW) Jason Hertling and Builder Ist Class Stephen Burmesch material throughout Central and Western Iraq.

The two convoy security element crews protected vehicles traveling to other bases and observation posts in Western Iraq. These convoys consisted of military "Green Gear"; vehicles from the Seabees, Army, or Marine Corps and

operators hauled and dispersed much needed construction

vehicles from the Seabees, Army, or Marine Corps and commercial contract vehicles such as tractor-trailers. The team's incredible record boasts more than 19,000 miles of transit, completion of more than 200 convoys, and the escort of 740 personnel and 3,480 vehicles.

The water-well teams hold a special place in NMCB-25 history.

# These were the first Seabees to drill U.S. military water wells in Western Al Anbar Province.

This wasn't an easy task considering the logistics of getting crews and equipment to the site and the difficulty of drilling in Iraq. The team went on to drill two more water wells and ultimately decreased the need for water supply convoys in those areas.

The rest of the battalion, spread among other detachment sites, completed missions as required, and returned members to the main battalion as work was completed. The net result was a fluid transition of Seabees from one project site to another.

One group of Seabees spent months supporting the Marines and Iraqi soldiers at battle positions in Western Iraq. Marines established these battle positions months earlier and use the sites to stage operations and house troops.

The Seabees made extensive improvements to these locations. Their work ranged from improving force protection to improving quality of life issues such as providing Marines and Iraqis with running water and electricity at these remote areas.

Seabees also formed more long-term crews that worked on extensive projects. The runway crews used commercial concrete saws to cut an astounding 5.6 miles of concrete in order to replace 2.8 miles of expansion joints. The crews worked at a brutal pace throughout the hot Iraqi summer, laying more than 2,081 cubic meters of and concrete before departing.

The Seabees also built a medical facility for a Surgical/



EO3(SCW) William Townsend prepares a well drilling head.

team completed scores of missions in country, using thousands of pounds of concrete to repair road surfaces.

Their actions allowed not only military and civilian traffic to transit more safely, but they denied terrorists easy access to areas where they could harm civilians and coalition forces using the roadways.

The crews worked closely with the U.S. Marines of the 9th Engineer Support Battalion. These Marines provided security for Seabees at work sites and during convoy operations.

The Rockhound team, a joint effort between NMCB-25 Seabees and Soldiers from the Army's 913th Engineer Company, completed over 120 missions in six months. These truck drivers and heavy equipment



Shock Trauma Platoon (SSTP). This facility replaced a tent structure traditionally used to follow an advancing line of Marine infantry. Besides housing state-of-the-art equipment, this new facility reduced the transit time for incoming wounded by a crucial six minutes, thus buying patients extra time during the "golden hour" of emergency care.

Other milestones for the Seabees included repair of two major bridges and completion of a fuel farm as large as 15 football fields. They compiled an astounding list of completed projects and weathered the Iraqi climate and changing job sites in stride.

It is ironic throughout all their work, many Seabees who deployed together to the Middle East in early 2006 had to wait nearly a year to see each other again.

Collectively, they have a thorough understanding of the work accomplished as a battalion, but each member may not understand the battalion's impact as a whole.

It takes someone at the command level and above to fully understand what a battalion has accomplished. Shortly before the battalion left Iraq, Commanding General Maj. Gen. Richard Zilmer (IMEF), spoke with a small group of Seabees at the Al Asad detachment site. "This last seven months of Active Duty you have been a well-oiled machine," said Zilmer. "You've been given task after task, day after day, and then going out and knocking down one after another."

Zilmer's enthusiasm for these Seabees isn't surprising,



"working smarter, not harder"

"absolutely amazed at the capabilities we bring" overseas, but by the end of that conflict it had lost twelve of its members.

The completion of the current operation was also bittersweet for this generation of NMCB-25. Three members of the battalion died while carrying out missions in Al Anbar Province, Iraq: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jaime Jaenke, Equipment Operator 1st Class Gary Rovinski and Builder 1st Class Jerry Tharp.

The same Improvised Explosive Devices that killed these Seabees also seriously injured three additional members of the battalion: Builder 1st Class Dean Berlin, Utilitiesman 1st Class Kenny Hendrickson, and Engineman 1st Class Troy Devault.

Zilmer was well aware of the battalion's losses when he spoke to these Seabees and reminded them it was their duty to uphold the memory of their fallen heroes. "Whether it's every Veterans Day or Memorial Day, for the rest of our lives, it's our responsibility to remember these shipmates that we have lost during this deployment. We've

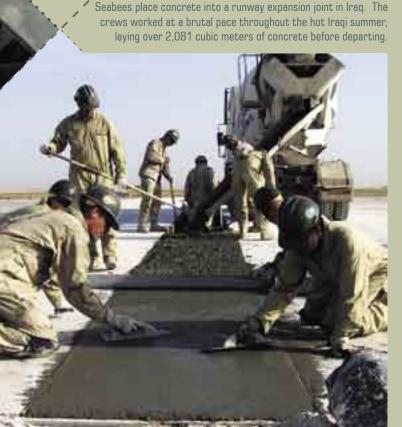
Water flows from the newly developed water well.

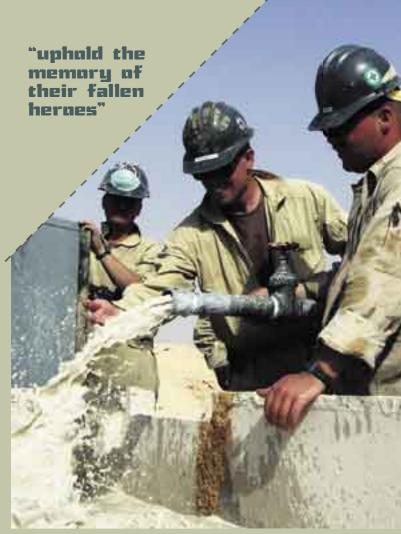
promised their families and we've promised ourselves that we will never forget them, and that's the task we have for the rest of our lives."

With weeks separating NMCB-25's return home and their return to drill status, many Seabees will have had more time to reflect upon those that gave their all and perhaps gain a greater appreciation for what these individuals and their unit accomplished across Western Iraq.

"Take stock of what you've got here," said Zilmer. "You should feel very, very good about what you've accomplished as a battalion over here. You came over here with great expectations about what you could do for 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The amount of work that you have done has enabled us to succeed as a MEF ... and in just a few words; I am absolutely amazed at the capabilities we bring."

NMCB-25 is one of 12 Navy Reserve Seabee Battalions and is based out of Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Members are primarily from Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, Iowa and Illinois.





# RESERVE CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES

nother new and important unit being developed within Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) is the NECC Reserve unit.

The unit will integrate with and complement NECC's Active Component by providing direct support and assistance when and where needed to help NECC meet its mission and objectives.

According to the unit's Commanding Officer, Capt. A.B. Cruz III, the first priority for the unit is manning.

Lt. Nels Peterson, attached to
Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Mobile Unit Eight signals to his
team after diving along Dipbouti
City piers.
U.S. Navy photo by
Chief Mass Communication
Specialist Eric A. Clement

"First and foremost, we're working to fill our available billets and create a critical mass of quality Sailors who are proven top-performers, possess military and/or civilian skills upon which NECC can rely and benefit, are eager to "jump into the mix," work shoulder-to-shoulder with their Active Component counterparts, and contribute immediately," Cruz said.

Currently, the unit is providing administrative support to the Naval Coastal Warfare realignment initiative and Individual Augmentee program, baselining the APPLY billet advertising process within NECC and supporting NECC's strategic communications initiatives.

Cruz added the Reserve NECC unit offers unique opportunities for Reservists looking for a challenge.

"Reservists, both Selected Reserves and Full Time Support, are and will continue to be a critical part of the total NECC force structure," he said.



"Clearly, NECC and its component commands hold a wide range of exciting and challenging opportunities for both the Reserve Component (RC) officer and enlisted to serve and excel in one or more of the expeditionary combat and combat support disciplines."

RC officers can contact Cruz at anatolio.cruz@navy.mil. RC enlisted Sailors can contact the unit's senior enlisted advisor, Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Jim Vaughan at james.c.vaughan@navy.mil or Chief Yeoman Cheri McCullough at cheri.mccullough@navy.mil.



TEW ORLEANS — To provide an open forum for drilling mariners to stay current on Navy topics, the 2007 Navy Reserve Merchant Marine Officers Conference was held here between Jan. 19-21.

The conference, which included numerous briefs by staff members of Commander Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC), provided a unique opportunity for drilling merchant mariners to remain active participants in the Navy Reserve and advance their Navy career.

Sean T. Connaughton, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) maritime administrator, spoke to the officers about the importance of maintaining a presence in the maritime community.

"The purpose of this conference is to get officers who are drilling, as well as those who are in the Individual Ready Reserve, to come together and hear some of the program highlights," Connaughton said.

Recruiting is a major focus for the Merchant Marine community this year.

There are three ways to join. Along with the merchant mariners who are actively sailing, opportunities to join are also available at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., and state maritime academies located in six states.

An incentive payment is paid to the state academy if someone chooses to enter the Navy Reserve upon graduation. The incentive is similar to Tuition Assistance. It helps out the academy as well as the student.

"Recruiting is such an important thing," Connaughton said. "These people at the conference are the best salesmen for recruiting."

CNRFC Rear Adm. Craig O. McDonald, pictured

above, kicked off the conference with a speech followed by a question and answer period with the officers.

"The Navy Reserve needs this conference to show Sailors other ways to manage, mentor and lead, not just be a mariner at sea," he said.

The primary mission of the Merchant Marine program is to maintain a cadre of military people with the skills to man the merchant vessels that are part of the Department of Defense and the DOT, and we can recall them to operate those vessels to take our war goods or prepositioned goods overseas, McDonald added.

A total of 22,000 officers currently serve in the Merchant Marine Navy Reserve program.

Connaughton touched briefly on the importance of maintaining this program from a national outlook.

"We want to ensure if there was to be another major

emergency, we have trained sea-going officers who can serve on merchant ships and naval auxiliary ships being held in reserve."

Other topics of the conference included Navy Reserve current events, mobilization readiness information, other training opportunities in the Navy, and a refresher concerning military bearing and uniform guidelines.



TNR

by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist(SW/AW) Dave Nagle, NECC Public Affairs

# **ECRC** Supporting

ince the start of the Global War on Terror, more than 51,000 Sailors, most of who are from the Reserve force, have served as Individual Augmentees (IA).

Primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan, these Sailors are around the globe, using their skills in support of both traditional and non-traditional field roles in the joint service environment.

Recognizing the need for a single organization to provide support for the IAs in theater and to adapt these Sailors' skills to non-traditional mission areas, the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command established the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC).

ECRC stood up in October 2006 as the central hub for the administrative processing, manning, training, equipping, deploying and redeploying the more than 10,000 IA and temporary forces currently serving around the globe, of which more than half are from the Navy's Reserve force.

We have complete responsibility for IAs, from the time they're notified through the point they redeploy

and demobilize, said ECRC Commanding Officer Capt. Jeffrey McKenzie.

The center oversees the two-week combat skills training course at Fort Jackson, S.C., where Sailors reporting to IA assignments receive uniforms and gear, and are trained in convoy operations, basic rifle marksmanship, urban operations, heavy weapons, land navigation and first aid. About 400 Sailors cycle through this course every two weeks.

Liaison officers are assigned at Fort Jackson and other training sites at Army posts throughout the United States, as well as detachments in Kuwait, Bahrain, Baghdad and Bagram.

ECRC works closely with Task Force IA in Washington, D.C., on issues affecting the deployed Sailors. One initiative in progress is looking at ways to streamline the processing and equipping of IAs.



Airman Stephanie Artea, an IA, mans the gun turret of a humvee while maintaining perimeter security in Al-Shu'llah, Iraq.

The support to IA and ILO forces from ECRC extends to their loved ones back home as well. The center maintains a family readiness site located at http://www.ecrc.navy.mil, providing a conduit for communication, resource and referral working along side Fleet & Family Support Center and regional/ national ombudsman. In addition, family members can call the toll free IA family care line, (1-877-364-4302), accessible 24/7 or send an e-mail to ecrc.fs.fct@navy.mil.

"The IA family readiness care line and Web page provide communication, learning and informational avenues for the IA Family," said ECRC's Director of IA Family Readiness Cmdr. Mary Sadler.

Many of the calls received since the care line was established in November 2006, Sadler said, were from family members needing to make contact with

IA deployments are critical to the Navy's efforts in the war on terror.

# IA Sailors and Families

Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. John Wade, left, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Karl Graham, Machinist's Mate 2nd Class David Mellor and Construction Mechanic 1st Class David Umana, look to the sky as Navy F/A-18's and Air Force A-10's provide combat air support during a recent mission in support of Operation *Mountain Fury*.

which too allow me

the Sailors in theater. Through a network of forward support detachments, ECRC was able to contact the Sailors.

ECRC has taken their message on the road, giving about two IA Family Readiness briefs a month to several hundred IA spouses, ombudsmen and IA Navy personnel to let the Navy community know that ECRC IA Family Readiness is standing by to assist.

ECRC is now conducting a Warrior Transition program in Kuwait to inform and assess each Individual Augmentee medically, as well as make the IA aware of the signs for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The four-day program includes equipment turn in, briefs on topics such as safety, suicide prevention, legal, medical wellness, domestic violence and post-traumatic stress syndrome, and a day of rest and relaxation before transporting back to the United States.

"The warrior transition program allows the IA a time to decompress," said Sadler. "During World War II and the Korean War, Sailors returned home by ship,

which took a few weeks. Today we want to allow enough quality time to the Sailor to

mentally disengage from the theater and combat."

Importantly, turning in weapons and equipment in Kuwait speeds the process of returning home vice returning to the initial training site in CONUS to turn in equipment, then back to NMPS (processing/deprocessing site) and then home.

"Before warrior transition, our IAs would return to the States with 250 pounds of gear in three seabags that had to be turned in at their initial processing site," said McKenzie. "Now, they turn in the equipment in Kuwait and we ship it back to the processing site for them."

This initiative, said McKenzie, eliminates a stop on the return home, saving up to three days of travel time for Sailors.

"On Christmas Eve, we met a group of IAs at McGuire Air Force Base returning from theater," McKenzie recalled. "In about six hours, we had them processed and ready to head home in time for Christmas. The smiles on their faces made it all worth it."

During a recent visit to IA training at Fort Jackson, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen stressed that IA deployments are critical to the Navy's efforts in the war on terror. He also stressed his continued commitment to supporting both IAs in theater and their families.

ECRC will continue to work to ensure support to these unique war fighters and their families.

TNR

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Ebensburg, Pa. (814) 341-2199

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Newport, R. I. (401) 841-4550

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Greenville, S.C. (864) 423-5889

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Jacksonville, Fla. (904) 542-3320

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Miami, Fla. (305) 336-5572

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VP-62 (904) 542-2211

VP-66 (215) 443-6600

(805) 989-8765/7598

(360) 257-2522

VP-92 (207) 921-2092

VP-94 (504) 678-3324

Fleet Logistics Support Wing (817) 825-6438

VR-1 (240) 857-3722

VR-46 (678) 655-6333

(240) 857-6814

VP-48

VR-51

(808) 257-3289 VR-52 (215) 443 6553

VR-53 (240) 857-9029

(504) 678-3700 VR-55 (805) 989-8755

VR-54

(619) 545-6920

(619)545-6914 VR-58 (904) 542-4051

VR-59 (817) 782-5411

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VP\_61

(207) 921-1462 VR-64 (215) 443-6400

Carrier Air Wing Reserve 20 (678) 575-6830

(240) 857-7828 VΔW-77 (678) 655-6382

VAQ-209

VFA-204

VFA-201 (817) 782-6363-221

(504) 678-3491 VFC-12 (757) 433-4919

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Helicopter Wing Reserve (619) 846-4857

HC-85

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HS-75

(904) 542-4495 (904) 270-6906

Onerational Support Offices and Reserve Force Operations

Allied Command Transformation (NATO) (757) 747-3314

Amphibious Construction Battalion Two (757) 492-7622

Amphibious Group One 011-81-611-742-2377 Amnhibinus Group Two

(757) 462-7403 x510 Amphibious Group Three

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Development (757) 492-7622 Comptroller of Navy (OMN&R)

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Defense Intelligence Agency (202) 231-4980 Defense Logistics Agency

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First Naval Construction Division (757) 462-8225 x229

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Center Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (808) 473-4627 Fleet and Industrial Supply Center San Diego, Calif.

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011-39-081-568-4184 Fleet Information Warfare Center (757) 417-4018

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Western Pacific 011-65-6750-2342

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Military Sealift Fleet Support Command (202) 685-5149

Mine Warfare Command (361) 961-4828 (361) 961-4885 (361) 961-4894

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Naval Inspector General (202) 433-4707

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Naval Network and Space Operations Command

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Naval Security Group Reserve (240) 373-3125

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Navy Region Northwest (360) 315-3007

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Sealift Logistics Command Europe 011-39-081-568-3568

Sealift Logistics Command Pacific (619) 553-7787

Space And Naval Warfare Systems Command (619) 524-7323

Submarine Force US Pacific Fleet (808) 473-2346

Submarine Group Nine (360) 396-6949

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US Central Command (813) 827-6938 (813) 827-6941

US European Command 011-49-711-680-4002

US Fifth Fleet 011-973-724-383

US Fleet Forces Command (757)-836-3847 (757)-836-0454 (757) 836-3551

US Joint Forces Command 757-836-6570

US Naval Forces Central Command 011-973-724-383

US Naval Forces Alaska (907) 463-2248

US Naval Forces Europe 011-44-207-514-4605 011-39-081-568-4634

US Naval Forces Japan 011-81-468-16-4467 011-81-468-16-4174

US Naval Forces Korea 011-822-7913-5795

US Naval Forces Marianas (671) 339-5432 (671) 339-5117 (671) 339-2668

US Naval Forces Southern Command (904) 270-7354 x4304

US Naval Special Warfare Command (619) 437-3230

US Northern Command (719) 554-4120 (719) 554-0552

US Pacific Command (808) 477-2322 (808) 477-1405 US Pacific Fleet (808) 474-8415 (808) 474-1178

US Second Fleet (703) 696-6676 (757) 444-4041 (757) 445-4672

US Seventh Fleet 011-81-6160-43-7440 x4090

US Sixth Fleet 011-39-081-568-4634

US Southern Command (305) 437-2987 (305) 437-1255

US Special Operations Command (813) 828-3004

US Strategic Command (402) 294-8141 (402) 294-8121

US Third Fleet (619) 524-9537

US Transportation Command (618) 229-7084

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Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One (619) 437-3700 (619) 556-5403

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Two (757) 462-8453 (757) 462-8470

First Naval Construction Division (757) 462-7421

Naval Coastal Warfare Group

Naval Coastal Warfare Group One (619) 437-9475

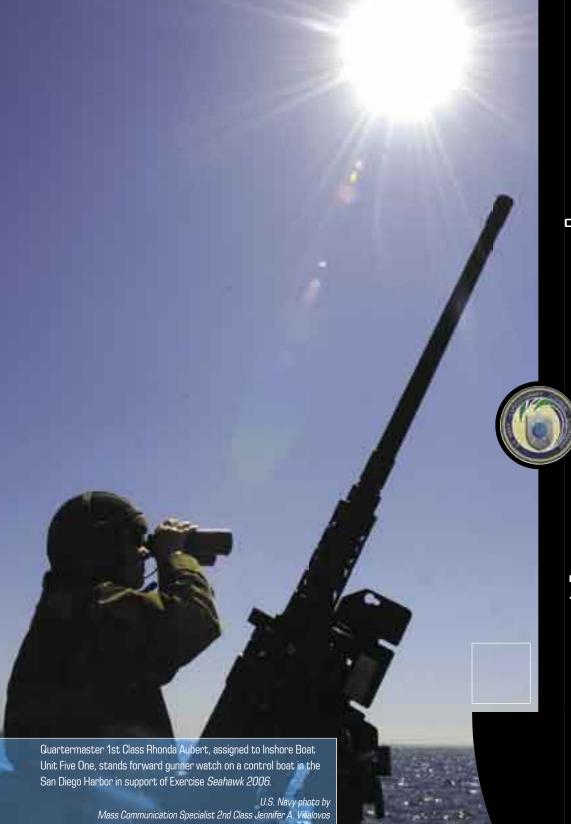
Naval Coastal Warfare Group Two (757) 396-0513



The Solution.

Conundrum questions on page 10.

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NAVY **EXPEDITIONARY** COMBAT COMMAND CONSOLIDATES, ALIGNS AND INTEGRATES DIVERSE **EXPEDITIONARY** CAPABILITIES AND COMBAT SUPPORT **ELEMENTS TO** CREATE CONSISTENT **EXPEDITIONARY** PRACTICES, PROCEDURES, LOGISTICS AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE JOINT BATTLE SPACE. A SCALABLE, SELF-SUSTAINING **EXPEDITIONARY** FORCE COMPRISED OF 40,000 INTEGRATED ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE, RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE MISSION

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